

Serial No. 10/092,078
Art Unit 2839

Amendment A

Remarks:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed September 2, 2003 in which claims 1-22 of the present application were rejected, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of claims 1-9, 12-15 and 18-22 in view the following amendments and remarks.

Applicant acknowledges with thanks Examiner Nguyen's withdrawal of the earlier issued restriction requirement in the present application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Alexander, Jr., U.S. Statutory Invention Registration No. H379, in view of Huspeni, U.S. Patent No. 6,299,475. The Examiner has characterized Alexander as disclosing an electrical connector including a housing and a cover for connecting a cable. The Examiner, however, concedes that Alexander does not disclose the details of a contact disposed in the housing and the cover.

The Examiner cites to the Huspeni patent for its teaching of an electrical connector having insulation displacement connectors (IDCs) disposed between a cover and a housing. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Alexander to provide the IDC as taught by Huspeni for the purpose of inserting the wires into the connector. The Examiner states further that the method steps are inherent in the product structure.

The present invention is directed to a connector for connecting an electrical component having a tab-type electrical terminal to a conductor. The connector includes a non-conducting housing base having a bottom wall, an upstanding front wall and upstanding, opposing side walls generally transverse to the front wall. The housing base defines a well. The front wall has a notch formed therein for receiving the associated conductor and the bottom wall has an opening therein for receiving the tab-type electrical terminal.

A conductive contact is carried by the housing base and is disposed in the well. The contact has conductor receiving elements generally aligned with and on opposing sides of the notch in the housing front wall. The conductor receiving elements are configured for receiving the conductor.

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The contact further includes first and second terminal engaging portions defining a tab-receiving region. The contact is carried by the housing base to dispose the tab-receiving region in overlying relation to the housing base bottom wall opening.

When the tab-type terminal is inserted through the housing base bottom wall opening it is received in the contact tab-receiving region, and is in electrical contact with the conductor positioned between the conductor receiving elements.

In addition, the housing base is formed on a housing base carrier a predetermined distance from a second housing base formed on the housing base carrier and the contact is formed on a contact carrier a predetermined distance from a second contact formed on the contact carrier.

Applicant submits that neither the Alexander document nor the Huspeni patent disclose this structure. Neither Alexander nor Huspeni disclose, among other things, the carrier formed elements that are spaced from adjacent elements a predetermined distance.

In conclusion, Applicant submits that claims 1-9, 12-15 and 18-22 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons stated above and respectfully and earnestly solicits early indication of same.

Applicant submits that there is no fee due in connection with the present amendment. If however, there is a fee due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

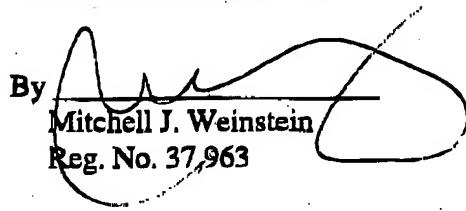
Serial No. 10/092,078
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Should Examiner Nguyen believe that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, or address any outstanding formal issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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December 1, 2003

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